(iii) Average amount of loan disbursed is Rs. 57,403/- per beneficiary.

(iv) Employment generated is 1.94 persons per functional unit.

(v) The distribution of beneficiaries in rural/urban areas are 49.9% & 50.1% respectively.

(vi) Assets have been created in 89.7% of the cases disbursed.

(vii) 36.4% of the beneficiaries were repaying the loan instalments on time.

(viii) Willful default have been found to be 16% of the default cases.

Competition between cottage industries and multinational companies

†1702. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that our cottage industries are facing tough competition with the multinational companies;

(b) if so, the effective steps Government have taken to protect the traditional cottage industries; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM): (a) to (c) With the globalisation of the Indian economy, the industries in the country including cottage and rural industries, are facing greater competition in the market. The strategy of the Government is to strengthen the cottage and rural industry sector to enable it to remain competitive in the market led economy and generate additional jobs. The Government has announced a Khadi package on 14.05.2001, which seeks to provide a competitive edge for cottage and rural industries in the changed market scenario. The package is under different stages of implementation an *inter-alia,* consists of creation of packaging and design facilities, measures to promote marketing, brand building, cluster development etc.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.